

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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National Intelligence Officers

SP - 203/81  
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Interdepartmental Affairs Staff, OPP  
FROM: Assistant National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs  
SUBJECT: "Flechette" BMD



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1. According to U.S. Army officials, there was a "flechette" concept for BMD under consideration at one time. It was one of many approaches to a "low-cost" non-nuclear US BMD that have been studied and rejected.

--"Flechette" is defined as a "small dart-shaped projectile clustered in an explosive warhead, dropped from an airplane, or fired from a hand-held gun."

--A "flechette BMD" would be one that called for saturation by small projectiles of an air-space into which enemy RVs were entering. One concept was that these small projectiles would be carried as the payload of an ABM, whose warhead would "explode" forward of incoming RVs. Another concept was for a volley of inexpensive ground-based, high-acceleration rockets with "flechettes" to be launched into the path of RVs coming in to the target to be protected.

2. According to the Army, studies indicated that such a system would not achieve "acceptable lethalties."



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